

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

On 3/1/99  
TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
By: Don Kane

GP 1649  
**PATENT**  
Attorney Docket No.: 85761-4  
Client Reference No.: AR007US

*#4*  
MAR 08 1999  
GROUP 1800

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

H. TAKATSUJI et al.

Application No.: 09/156,580

Filed: September 18, 1998

For: METHOD FOR SHORTENING  
INTERNODE OF INFLORESCENCE BY  
INTRODUCING PETUNIA  
TRANSCRIPTION FACTOR PetSPL2

Examiner:

Art Unit: 1649

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 and  
§1.98**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The references cited on attached form PTO-1449 are being called to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the references are enclosed along with the Applicant's translations of the abstracts of the Japanese journal articles. It is respectfully requested that the cited information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement, since it is being submitted prior to the first Office Action. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Bastian  
Reg. No. 34,774

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: 415-576-0200  
Fax: 415-576-0300  
KLB:pb

SF 199370 v1